

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Los Angeles Region**

**Executive Officer's Report
Dennis A. Dickerson, Executive Officer**

May 27, 1999

INSIDE THIS REPORT :

Groundwater Division
Enforcement
Stormwater
Remediation
Underground Storage Tanks
Surface Water Division
Watershed Regulatory
Regional Programs
Watershed/Coastal Waters
Outreach
Staff Development
Administrative Services

*** The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption

*** For a list of simple ways to reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see the tips at: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/news/echallenge.html>

June 17th Meeting Cancelled, New Meeting Date Announced

Each December, the Regional Board adopts a schedule for its Board meetings through the next calendar year. At least one Board member cannot attend the previously calendared June 17th meeting. This would result in the absence of a quorum, therefore, the June 17th meeting has been cancelled. June 30th has been selected as the date for the Regional Board's next meeting

Regional Board Begins Planning for Fall Surface Water Conference

The Regional Board will host a conference this fall to explore surface water issues in the Los Angeles Region. A tentative date of Wednesday, September 29th has been set for the conference. The purpose of the conference will be to conduct an in-depth discussion on various surface water issues including the development of the 303 (d) listing of impaired surface waters, this Region's obligation to develop Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), TMDL implementation plans, bio-monitoring, and other topics that relate to these issues. More details on this conference will be provided in the next Executive Officer's Report.

Oxnard Forebay: Proposed Septic Prohibition

In response to Resolution No. 98-022, adopted on December 14, 1998, Regional Board staff will issue a Draft Staff Report for a prohibition on septic systems in the Oxnard Forebay. This report will be available for public review by the end of May. The Board may consider a Basin Plan amendment to implement such a prohibition at a public hearing that will be scheduled later this summer. In the meantime, public workshops for the proposed septic prohibition will be held on:

Tuesday morning, June 8, 10 to 12 a.m.
California Room, 669 County Square Drive, Ventura

Tuesday evening, June 8, 6 to 8 p.m.
Roger Jones Community Center, 2864 Jourdan Street, El Rio

Tuesday morning, June 22, 10 to 12 a.m.
California Room, 669 County Square Drive, Ventura

Copies of the report may be obtained by calling Leticia Aguilar at (213) 576-6623. For technical questions, please contact Rick Vergets at (213) 576-6688.

MUN Dedications

On November 2, 1998, the Regional Board voted to amend the Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region (Basin Plan), by adopting a resolution to "Incorporate Changes in Beneficial Use Designations for Selected Waters." This amendment removes the beneficial use designation for "Municipal and Domestic Supply" (MUN) from 8 coastal surface waters and 2 ground water areas along the coast. At a public hearing on February 18, 1999, the State Board voted to approve this amendment. Before becoming effective, the amendment needs to be approved by the Office of Administrative Law and the US EPA. State Board expects to submit this for review by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) later this month. OAL is expected to complete review within 30 days of submittal by the State Board.

A. SURFACE WATER UPDATES

Los Angeles & San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council

The Watershed Council met on April 21, 1999, at the LA County Department of Public Works. Subjects discussed included the Three-year Watershed Study, the Sunland Sub-watershed, and the County Landscape Design Standards. Meeting attendees were informed of the May 1, 1999, conference on "Storm water: Asset or Liability", which was held at the LA DWP Auditorium.

A special presentation was made for groundwater clean up efforts in the San Gabriel Basin. Presentation included information on funding and PRPs as well as a presentation by the City of LA on the Headworks Well Field project. A workshop was also held regarding the "El Nino Emergency Stream Clearing and Mitigation". Representatives for the workshop included staff from LA County, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the USEPA.

The Watershed Council meets on the third Wednesday of each month. The May Watershed Council meeting will be held at the River Center at 570 Avenue 26 near where the 5 and 110 Freeways intersect. The June meeting will be hosted by the City of Pasadena on the progress of the Hahamongna Watershed Project.

Decommissioning Matilija Dam

On May 3, 1999, Regional Board staff attended a meeting at the Ventura County Government Center regarding the decommissioning of the Matilija Dam. The meeting was held for the purpose of determining practical alternatives of removing the dam. John Gray, URS Greiner Woodward-Clyde, presented the options for the dam removal: retain and stabilize the sediment; remove the sediment by natural erosion; and active sediment removal. All options include removing the dam in sections as the sediment is removed. The time frames run from 6 years for active removal to more than 10 years for the natural erosion scenario. Most participants agreed that this dam is unique in that everyone, including the dam owner (Ventura County Flood Control District) appears to be in favor of its removal. There are some concerns about safety immediately below the dam, flooding in some of the communities adjacent the river (e.g., Casitas Springs and Oak View), and the cost of removal (estimated at 82 million dollars). If the dam were dismantled, approximately 8 miles of fair, 5 miles of good, and 6 miles of excellent steelhead habitat would be available. This habitat could support 2000 adults and 94,000 smolts. Removal would also allow sandy sediments to flow down the Ventura River and into the ocean for coastal beach replenishment. The group agreed to the formation of two

task forces: one to deal with the technical and regulatory issues, and a political task force to deal with funding sources.

B. TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS (TMDL) UPDATES

Trash TMDL-East Fork San Gabriel River

The East Fork of the San Gabriel River, located in the Angeles National Forest, is a popular area for families to picnic on the weekends. On a typical summer weekend, about 7500 people will recreate in the area. The enormous number of day users generates a huge amount of trash. Due to the large amount of trash in and around the river, the East Fork was listed as impaired on the 303d list. As a condition of a Regional Board permit for the San Gabriel Canyon Sediment Management Plan, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LACPW) agreed to develop a TMDL for trash in the East Fork of the San Gabriel River. LACPW and the US Forest Service estimate, using the most readily available measurement, 32-gallon garbage bags, that about 222 bags of trash are removed each weekend day from the area. Every type of litter is found, from broken glass to diapers. This TMDL will focus reduction efforts on public education and increasing the accessibility of trash receptacles. The draft TMDL was presented by Bryan Schweickert at a public workshop on April 13, 1999 at the Azusa City Hall Main Auditorium. The TMDL will be considered by the Board this July.

C. ENFORCEMENT

Industrial Stormwater General Permit Enforcement Action

In May the Regional Board issued six Administrative Civil Liabilities (ACL) to Permittees under the General Permit for Storm Water Dischargers Associated with Industrial Activities for failure to submit annual reports. Annual reports detail a Permittee's activities related to compliance with the General Permit and implementation of Best Management Practices to reduce the impact of storm water runoff from their site. The General Permit requires Permittees to submit annual reports by July 1 each year. An ACL represents the last step in a progressive series of actions by the Regional Board to bring a Permittee into compliance with the General Permit. Below is a summary of the recent ACLs:

Permittee Penalty Amount

Sanitek Inc., Wilmington \$5,400
Port of Los Angeles Berth 161 \$8,400
Johnson Controls, City of Industry \$5,400
Chano's Auto Dismantling, Wilmington \$5,100
Danny's Auto Dismantling, Wilmington \$5,100
Harout's Auto Parts, Sun Valley \$8,400

Metropolitan Transportation Authority Issued Administrative Civil Liability Complaint

On May 12, 1999, the Executive Officer issued a Complaint for Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) against the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) for five discharge events between May 14, 1997 and August 26, 1998. Discharges of this wastewater to the Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek, totaling 1,189,700 gallons from Outfalls 1050, 1085, 1130, and 1150 along Segments 2B and 3, were in violation of NPDES permit (Order 97-050) and California Water Code. Penalties under this ACL total \$292,795, of which \$190,000 may be invested in Supplemental Environmental Projects subject to the approval of the Regional Board. In the event this ACL is appealed to the Regional Board, it has been set for hearing on July 8, 1999.

Construction Storm Water Enforcement Action

On March 29, 1999, the City of Calabasas reported to Regional Board staff that on March 27, 1999, a Western Pacific Housing project in Calabasas was found discharging wastes to Las Virgenes Creek. The discharge of wastes was contrary to the discharge prohibitions in the State of California General Storm Water Permit for Construction Activity. A Notice of Violation was written by Regional Board staff person Carlos Urrunaga and issued by the Executive Officer on March 31, 1999. On April 12, 1999, an Administrative Civil Liability was issued to Western Pacific Housing for \$10,000. On April 22, 1999, Western Pacific Housing paid the penalty and waived their right to a hearing.

D. GROUNDWATER UPDATES

San Pasqual--Proposed Sewer Project

Wendy Phillips participated in another public hearing, on April 20, 1999, led by the County of Los Angeles on behalf of a proposed sewer project for San Pasqual. San Pasqual is a neighborhood of about 700 properties in an unincorporated portion of the County of Los Angeles, southeast of Pasadena and north of San Marino. Residents in San Pasqual rely upon septic systems and cesspools for wastewater disposal; due to the high density of the neighborhood and poor soil conditions, disposal systems in portions of the neighborhood have high failure rates.

Following the County's outreach efforts, more than two-thirds of San Pasqual residents voted in late April to form an assessment district for installation of sewers. Preliminary cost estimates for the project are estimated to total about \$6 million; the County hopes to fund most of these costs through the State's SRF Loan Program.

Charnock Sub-basin MTBE Investigation Area

At present there are 25 active Potential Responsible Party (PRP) sites identified in the Charnock Sub-Basin Investigation Area. Of the 25 PRP sites, site assessment has been completed in 16 sites, whereas there are 9 sites where supplemental site assessment is either underway or planned to be performed in the near future. Groundwater monitoring is being performed at all PRP sites on a quarterly basis. Quarterly groundwater monitoring reports are received, reviewed, and commented upon within a short time. Three sites (Shell Oil Co.-PRP No. 11, Chevron USA/Thrifty Oil Co.-PRP No. 23, and Mobil Oil Co.-PRP No. 8) have submitted site remedial action plans (RAP) . The Shell Oil Co. RAP was approved on May 12, 1999, and will be implemented by July 1, 1999. Tentative NPDES permit package for PRP site 11 will be presented to the Board on June 30, 1999. At the Mobil Oil Co. site, the RAP will be approved within two weeks and the tentative NPDES Permit package will be scheduled for the July 1999, Board meeting. At the Chevron USA/Thrifty Oil Co. site, the RAP was approved on April 30, 1999, to cleanup the soil contamination on-site and cleanup soil and groundwater at an off-site location.

Regional Board and USEPA staff perform weekly project status update telephone conference with the interested parties (City of Santa Monica and the Southern California Water Company). Staff also attends meetings and participates in telephone conferences to discuss the pilot project cleanup alternatives for the areawide remediation effort.

On April 20, 1999, the Executive Officer issued Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO 99-006) to CONOCO Incorporated (PRP Site No. 6), located at 11198 Washington Blvd., Culver City. On April 20, 1999, the United States Environmental Protection Agency issued a joint Unilateral Administrative Order (Docket No.RCRA-7003-09-99-0004) to CONOCO Incorporated. The Orders require CONOCO Incorporated to investigate the magnitude and extent of gasoline discharged to soil and/or groundwater. Investigation activities are set up in a tiered approach with on-site soil and groundwater investigation to be followed by off-site assessment and data interpretation of the

subsurface lithology. Following the issuance of the Orders, staff of the Regional Board and the USEPA had a meeting with legal and technical representatives of CONOCO Incorporated on May 11, 1999.

The agencies are in the process of preparing a Revised Draft Consent Decree and Scope of Work for parties interested in joining the Charnock PRP Group to address remaining assessment, monitoring, and cleanup of the Charnock Sub-Basin. The Draft Consent Decree and Scope of Work is anticipated to be completed and sent to the identified PRP's by May 25, 1999.

Arcadia Wellfield MTBE Investigation

The shallow aquifer in the vicinity of the former Mobil Oil Company Service Station 18-LDM has been treated with a pump and treat system. The treatment system is capable of pumping 35 gallon per minutes (GPM) of extracted groundwater water. Currently, approximately 5 to 6 GPM of groundwater are being pumped from 12 groundwater extraction wells. To date, the treatment system has pumped 4.3 million gallons of groundwater and removed an estimated 42 pounds of gasoline hydrocarbons and 156 pounds of MTBE.

The remaining impacted soil in the vadose zone is being treated with a vapor extraction system (VES) which became operational at the beginning May 1999.

A Production Aquifer Remediation System (PARS) using activated carbon filtering to clean up the production aquifer has been designed and submitted for agencies' for final review. Mobil is in the process of applying for a variance from the City of Los Angeles to construct the groundwater treatment system at the former Mobil Service Station site. Construction of PARS is expected to start in July 1999, pending on variance approval from the City of Los Angeles.

A Remedial Action Plan to clean up the MTBE contamination in the lower aquifer has been submitted by Mobil on March 26, 1999. An NPDES permit application for SAVRS/PARS was review in April 1999 and will be considered at the May 27, 1999, Board Meeting.

Completion of Corrective Action at Leaking Underground Fuel Storage Tank Sites

Board staff have reviewed corrective actions taken for soil and groundwater contamination problems from leaking UST's for the time of April 1, 1999, through May 12, 1999, and determined that no further corrective actions are required:

Frank Nagata Property, South El Monte (I-16776)
Signal Hill Petroleum Facility, Signal Hill (I-12001)
USA Service Station No. 5, Azusa (I-09614)
Thrifty Oil Company Service Station No. 022, Bell Gardens (R-10930)
California Street Maintenance, Gardena (R-02350)
Chevron Service Station No. 9-1899, Santa Clarita (I-10662)
J & J Truck Sales, Bellflower (I-6598)
McMullen Oil Company, Santa Fe Springs (I-12924)
American Linen, Hollywood (900380270)
Arga's Mexican Foods, City of Industry (I-14480)
Chevron Service Station No. 9-8574, Santa Clarita (R-00265)
Associated Brewers Distributing Co, Inc., Long Beach (908130461)
Long Beach Harbor Department Maintenance Yard, Long Beach (908020043)
Hughes Aircraft Co., El Segundo (I-12326)

E. COASTAL WATERS/ WATERSHEDS UPDATES

Calleguas Creek Watershed

The Water Quality/Water Resources Subcommittee met on April 9. The Subcommittee is currently in the process of drafting a Water Resources/Water Quality Chapter in the Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan. Subcommittee members have developed a list of their goals and objectives for water quality and water resources and are working to clarify participants' goals and objectives, identify possible solutions to problems, pinpoint concrete actions which will be taken to address the problems, filter out long-term from short-term goals, and reach agreement on what issues to deal with first. Agricultural best management practices (BMPs) and concerns over use of household water softeners and their contributions of chlorides to treatment plants are two early action items that have been identified.

The Flood Protection/Sedimentation Subcommittee met on May 10. They are currently involved with discussions on conducting a hydrologic study of the watershed and the need for historic photographs to evaluate changes in sedimentation over time.

The Public Education/Outreach Subcommittee has completed the first edition of a newsletter to cover watershed issues and events. It will eventually have its own website with links to other web pages. The group is currently organizing a state of the watershed conference that will be held at the new California State University Channel Islands campus.

The Habitat/Recreation Subcommittee met on April 20 and continues work on a wetlands study which includes a habitat mapping component. Its next meeting is scheduled for June 8.

The Steering Committee for the Watershed Management Plan last met on April 9 and continues work on its expectations/products for 1999. A draft Table of Contents for the Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan being developed has been prepared.

The full Management Committee met on February 10. The watershed effort will be receiving \$200,000 in grant funding from Congress. Each subcommittee presented information on their most recent activities. The next Management Committee meeting was held on May 24. Information about the management committee and its subcommittees can be found at <www.calleguas.com>.

The Surface Water Element of the Calleguas Creek Characterization Study Monitoring Program continues. Samples are collected on the first Wednesday of each month.

Los Angeles River Watershed

The Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council meets on the third Wednesday of each month. The next meeting was held on May 19. The Friends of the LA River now has a Los Angeles River e-mail discussion forum. To subscribe, e-mail to <la-river-discuss-subscribe@makelist.com>.

Santa Monica Bay Watershed

The Modeling and Monitoring Subcommittee of the Malibu Creek Watershed Advisory Council has drafted a watershed-wide monitoring program for the Malibu Creek Watershed. The group last met on May 6; a draft monitoring program has been distributed to stakeholders for comment. A major task soon will be finding partners to participate in this voluntary program to assess and help correct the water quality concerns in this area.

A meeting of the Malibu Creek Watershed Council and Malibu Lagoon Task Force was held on April 20. The Task Force is concerned with lagoon breaching, the septic tracer study, and all aspects of the UCLA study of the lagoon. The Watershed Council meeting included a discussion of the UCLA

study's draft findings. The study covers a hydrologic evaluation, appropriateness of various biological and water quality objectives, water level management, eutrophication issues, pathogens, and the historical condition of the lagoon. The study was funded by a California Coastal Conservancy grant with assistance by local agencies. UCLA conducted a half-day workshop on April 30 to discuss their draft report. Regional Board staff have commented on a copy of the report which should be finalized sometime in June.

A watershed committee has been meeting in the Topanga Creek Watershed. The most recent meeting was held on April 17, which consisted of a short workshop on water quality issues in the Topanga Watershed and Santa Monica Bay. Shirley Birosik, Watershed Coordinator on Board staff, was a presenter at the workshop. A major near-term goal of this watershed committee is to prioritize potential actions previously identified in a draft Topanga Creek Watershed Management Study and start a coordinated resource management planning (CRMP) process. A longer-term goal is preparation of a watershed management plan that will help address a number of issues including flood control in the canyon. The committee will meet next on May 13. The committee's website address is <www.TopangaOnline.com/twc/>.

Watershed Management Initiative Chapter

Each Regional Board has completed the process of producing a "chapter" on how that Board is implementing watershed management in the Region. The consolidated statewide chapter will become the basis for funding decisions including allocating money for monitoring, TMDL development, and grant monies disbursement. Copies of this Region's chapter may be obtained by contacting the Regional Board office, Regional Programs Section secretary. The next update of this Chapter has been rescheduled for the end of May 1999.

319(h)/205(j) Request for Proposals

The Request for Proposals (RFP) packets for 319(h)/205(j) grant funds have been mailed by the State Water Resources Control Board to those on the current mailing list. Application forms may also be obtained on the State Board website. Proposals must be postmarked no later than June 11, 1999. General procedural information on applying for the funds may be obtained by contacting Shirley Birosik, Watershed Coordinator, at the Regional Board. She may be contacted by phone at (213)576-6679 or by E-mail at sbirosik@rb4.swrcb.ca.gov.

F. OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

California Waste Association

On April 28th, the senior staff management team of the Regional Board appeared at a meeting of the California Waste Association to provide an overview of the Regional Board's programs and activities.

Government Conference on the Environment

On May 5th, the Executive Officer presented a session on TMDLs at the Government Conference on the Environment.

Southern California Tuna Club

On May 6, 1999, Carlos Urrunaga of the Los Angeles Coastal Watersheds Unit made a presentation to the members of the Southern California Tuna Club in Long Beach. The presentation focussed on the sources of urban runoff pollution and how polluted runoff affects beneficial uses including

fishing. A plastic watershed model was used to dramatically show pollutants flowing within a creek and storm drain system and ultimately to a common water body. The presentation also included the viewing of a video produced by the City of Los Angeles and a slide show.

Annual Seminar on Hazardous Waste Management and the Law

On Friday, May 14th, the Executive Officer gave a presentation on a variety of Regional Board programs and topics at the Annual Seminar on Hazardous Waste Management and the Law at the Intercontinental Hotel in Los Angeles.

City of Los Angeles Hyperion Sewage Treatment Facility

On May 15th, members of the Regional Board and staff attended the Hyperion Open House event to mark the transition of that facility to full secondary treatment.

Caltrans Stormwater Quality Workshop

On May 19th, the Executive Officer attended a workshop sponsored by Caltrans and participated in a panel discussion on Litter Regulation and Policy

Southern California Academy of Sciences 1999 Annual Meeting

Michael Lyons was invited to present a paper as part of a symposium on Contaminated Sediments in Southern California on May 1, 1999. His presentation was entitled "Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor - Managing Contaminated Sediments". The presentation summarized the Regional Board's efforts to investigate and identify sources of sediment contamination in the harbor, as well as our attempts to integrate various programs (Bay Protection and Toxic Cleanup Program, Contaminated Sediments Task Force, Watershed Management) as we develop a strategy for source control and remediation of problem sites. The symposium was well received by the attendees, which included environmental scientists from state and local agencies, waste dischargers, consultants and the academic community.

G. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

New Staff Members

We have added a new member to our Section 401 Water Quality Certification Staff, Mr. Anthony (Tony) Klecha. Tony transferred from Region 6, Victorville office, where he worked on 401 certifications and stormwater discharges. Tony has a B.S. in Environmental Resources Engineering from Humboldt State University. Tony's previous experience included environmental consulting for the Los Angeles Metro Red Line and water quality monitoring in the Los Angeles River.

Office Visitors

There were 498 visitors for the month of April. The total for the year is 2,053 visitors.

Personnel Report

As of the month of April our staff total was 104: 85 technical staff (including 4 part-time technical staff), 5 permanent administrative support staff and 14 permanent clerical staff.

Staff is currently taking steps to fill 1 Unit Chief position and 3 technical positions. Since February

the following appointments have been made: 1 Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer, 1 Senior Engineering Geologist, 1 Environmental Specialist IV (Supv.), 4 Associate Engineering Geologists, 1 Associate Water Resource Control Engineer, and 2 Water Resource Control Engineers. The following separated from the Board: 1 Environmental Program Manager II, 1 Sanitary Engineering Associate, 1 Environmental Specialist III, 1 Associate Water Resource Control Engineer. 1 Senior Water Resource Control Engineer retired.

Freedom of Information Act and Public Records Act Requests for the Month of April 1999

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests and Public Record Act (PRA) requests to review or copy public documents are a very important part of the work at the Regional Board. The FOIA and PRA cover most of the documents at the Regional Board. The State legislature adopted statutory language requiring that these requests be tracked by the Regional Boards. The FOIA and PRA require agencies to provide a response on the availability of the requested document within 10 working days (FOIA) or 10 calendar days (PRA) of receiving the request. The Regional Board has a procedure to respond to, and a database to track, these requests.

During the month of April 1999, 24 FOIA / PRA requests were received and processed. In all cases a response was provided within the mandated time frame.

SUMMARY OF ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS - MARCH 1-31, 1999

Administrative Enforcement Actions for Overdue / Incomplete Reports

Groundwater monitoring reports	2
Other technical reports	1
Site assessment reports	1
Site remedial action plans	1

Administrative Enforcement Actions for Stormwater Permits

Failed to submit storm water pollution prevention plan	2
Inadequate construction erosion control measures	2
Violation of county stormwater permit	1

Total Enforcement Actions for March **10**

SUMMARY OF ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS - APRIL 1-30, 1999

Formal Enforcement Actions

Cleanup and Abatement Order	2
Administrative Civil Liability	6

Administrative Enforcement Actions

Effluent violations	2
Failure to implement remedial action plan	1

Administrative Enforcement Actions for Overdue / Incomplete Reports

Groundwater monitoring reports	10
Other technical reports	13
Site assessment plans	2
Site assessment reports	4

Site remedial action plans	1
Deficient technical reports	5

Administrative Enforcement Actions for Stormwater Permits

Inadequate construction erosion control measures	5
Violation of county stormwater permit	1
Failed to comply with permit requirements	4

Total Enforcement Actions for April	56
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SPILLS REPORTED DURING APRIL 1999

ALL REPORTED SPILLS

Chemical	10
Crude oil	7
Diesel	20
Gasoline	1
Miscellaneous petroleum products	17
Oil	3
Other	5
Sewage	6
Waste water	4
Vapors	13

Total	86
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SPILLS WHICH ENTERED WATERWAYS OR WATERS

Chemical	1
Crude oil	0
Diesel	10
Gasoline	1
Miscellaneous petroleum products	5
Oil	2
Other	1
Sewage	4
Waste water	3

Total	27
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